

Overview of the Amendment Process

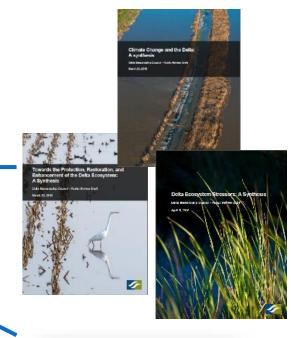
Outreach and Coordination

Science Synthesis Papers

Technical Analyses



- Refinement of Policies, Recommendations, and Performance Measures
- Updating the Chapter Narrative



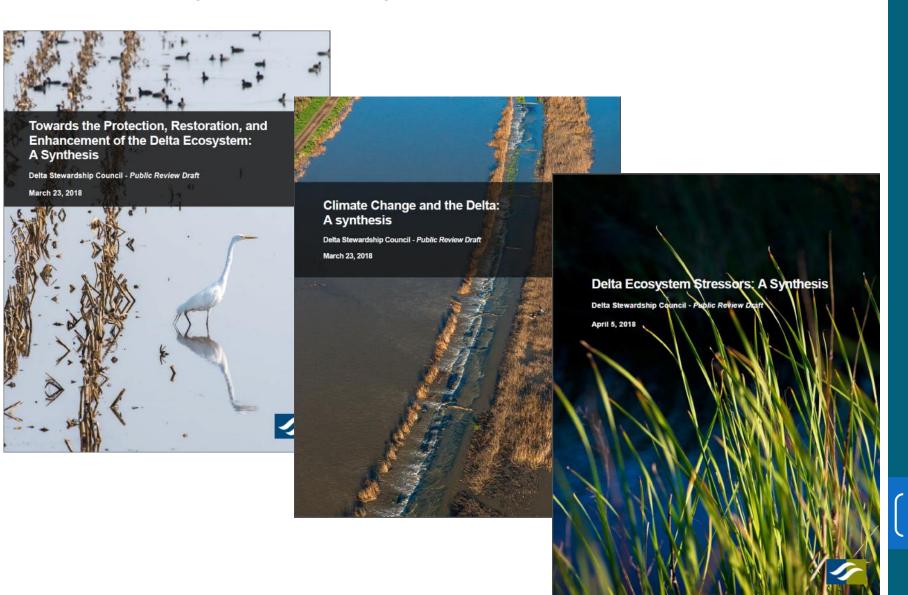


Outreach

- Council Listening Sessions
- Staff Briefings and Outreach
- Ongoing outreach through selected forums
- Interagency Committee Meetings
- Council Meetings
- Ecosystem Amendment Open House



Science Synthesis Papers



Delta ISB Review

Selected comments:

- Consider deeper time frames both past and future – and cultural aspects
- Clarify and improve accuracy of terminology
- Address uncertainty through adaptive management processes – including development of decision thresholds, and future science research needs
- Provide guidance on species management



Delta Independent Science Board

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 WWW.DELTACOUNCIL.CA.GOV

June 5, 2018

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Chair, Delta Stewardship Council

Delta Independent Science Board Review of the Synthesis Papers to Inform the Delta Plan Ecosystem Chapter Amendment

The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) is required to periodically amend the Delta Plan to lay out criteria for Council actions. To be effective, the Delta Plan and its criteria need to be based on the best available science. Science can be used to attempt to describe how the future is likely to unfold, specify the boundaries of ecosystem targets and performance measures, and estimate the likely consequences of management decisions.

The Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) recommended that the Council prepare white papers on the best available science related to possible amendments to the Delta Plan (see September 18, 2017, memo¹). Scientific white papers would help separate rigorous scientific evaluation from calls to action and specific action recommendations. In response, the Council developed three synthesis papers to identify critical science related to Delta ecosystems and to inform the amendment to Chapter 4 of the Delta Plan; Restore, Protect and

On April 6, 2018, the Delta ISB was formally asked to review the following three synthesis

- "Climate Change and the Delta: A Synthesis;"
- *Towards the Protection, Restoration and Enhancement of the Delta Ecosystem: A Synthesis: and
- *Delta Ecosystem Stressors: A Synthesis

The Delta ISB was asked to comment specifically on the relevance and completeness of the body of science, missing literature, and whether the scientific findings support the Implications and Considerations at the end of each synthesis pape

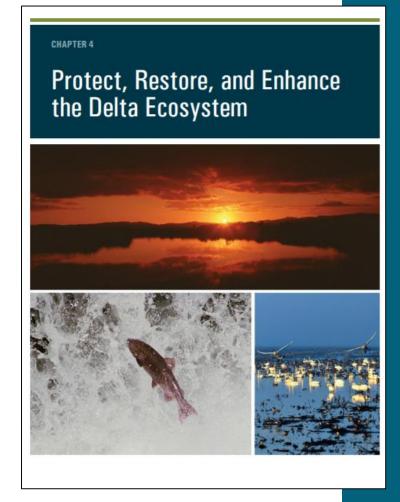
Our review begins with broad comments that apply across all three papers, followed by more detailed synthesis-specific comments, and ending with a list of additional references for

Broad Comments on the Syntheses

Overall, the descriptions of the science described in the synthesis papers are generally good. They appropriately lay out the scientific information available before turning to the policy

Current Core Strategies

- Create more natural functional flows
- Restore habitat
- Improve water quality to protect the ecosystem
- Prevent introduction of and manage non-native species impacts
- Improve hatcheries and harvest management



Water Code Section: 85020 & 85054:

Protect and enhance the unique cultural, recreational, and agricultural values of the California Delta as an evolving place

Amendment Blueprint

Refining the core strategies:

- Integrate climate change considerations, resiliency concepts, and strategies
- Describe how restoration can engage and benefit society including integration of social benefits as part of restoration planning
- Identify strategies to better define, study, and incorporate adaptive management in best management practices on agricultural lands
- Provide function-based quantitative targets for ecosystem restoration
- Identify strategies to address implementation challenges

Ecosystem Amendment Blueprint

Conservation and Restoration Priorities

MacDonald et al. 2016 Palmer and Ruhl 2015 Suding et al. 2015 SFEI Resilient Landscapes Davenport et al. 2016



Chapter 4 Narrative

(Goals and Objectives)

Quantitative Ecosystem Outcomes

Social Benefits – SLR Resilience

Ecosystem Amendment Framework

- Policies
- Recommendations
- Performance Measures

ER P2 Update – Map ER P3 Update – Map ER P4 Update

PM Datasheets

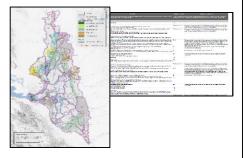
Supported Ecological Communities

Implementation – Supporting Documentation

- Restoration Science Support
 - Monitoring
 - Adaptive Management
- · Land Acquisition and Management
 - Role of S-SJ Delta Conservancy
 - Long term O&M Funding
 - Private Public Partnerships
- Permitting Support
 - Permitting efficiencies
 - Program opportunities (e.g. RCIS/MCA) Funding
 - B/C Tools, Program/PSP Guidelines/Cost Share
 - Funding
- · Local Government Engagement
 - Local Plans
 - Climate Vulnerability
- Delta Conservation Framework
 - Conservation Opportunity Region - Restoration Opportunities Analysis

Conservation and Restoration Actions

SFEI Landscape Planning Tool Pilot Analysis



Synthesis Papers







Outreach

- Council Listening Sessions
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- Staff Briefings
- Open House



Project Timeline

- August 2018 Council Meeting presentation on draft Ecosystem Amendment Framework
- September 2018 Draft Ecosystem Amendment for Council Approval followed by Notice of Preparation (NOP) for Amendment PEIR
- October 2018 CEQA scoping meeting
- November Council Approval of Project
 Description for Ecosystem Amendment PEIR
- March-April 2019 Public review of Draft PEIR
- October 2019 Certification of PEIR



Discussion